

In the home of Dr. Daniel Cartwright, his son Robert and daughter Evelyn are entertaining a number of young friends with a house party. Evelyn, a young girl of eighteen, is the life of the party. Her brother, somewhat older and more serious, is not greatly interested in the affair, but enjoys the company of the younger folks. On his way to the party, Jimmy Ailer stops at a small restaurant near the high school and purchases a bottle of liquor to be used at the party with the punch. Robert has tasted the punch and found that it has been "spiked." Dropping into the library for a few words with his father, Dr. Cartwright discovers the fact that Robert has been drinking slightly and takes him to task for it. Robert tells his father that there is no harm in a few mild drinks now and then, and tells him that he must not deny the young folks their fling at life. Cartwright, however, is worried when he learns that the youngsters are drinking spiked punch and determines to stop it.

In the meantime Jimmy has arrived at the party, and breezily assumes charge of Evelyn. Escorting her to a hidden nook in the room, he tries to induce her to drink from his bottle. He finally overcomes her fears and qualms of conscience, and she drinks from the bottle. The immediate result is that she is stricken with poisoning. At this point, Robert and his father enter the room and find that Evelyn has been stricken. She is removed to her room, where after an examination, Dr. Cartwright pronounces it a case of poison liquor. Robert determines to find out where this liquor came from. He gets Jimmy and forces him to go with him to the place where he bought the bottle. They purchase another bottle, and Robert makes a prisoner of the man who sells it and forces him to come to the Cartwright home. At the point of a gun, Dr. Cartwright compels the man to tell where he obtains his supply, and it is learned that the landlady of the Rex Apartments furnishes it to him. Robert and his father determine to hold the man in the house until they find out whether or not he has told the truth.

Robert goes to the apartment house and engages an apartment, finding that the landlady is just recovering from a wild party held the night before. In accordance with their pre-arranged plan, he phones his father, and Cartwright forces the bootlegger to order a delivery of liquor from Mitzi, the landlady. She tells him that she hasn't enough on hand to fill his order, and when he insists that he must have it, she tells him she will get it for him. Mitzi then gets into use, a small wireless sending apparatus concealed in her apartment, and sends a message to the head of the bootleggers in the nearby port.

This message is received by the head of the ring who manufacture illicit liquor, Lee Haynes. In the old warehouse near the bay, this liquor is turned out in large batches. When Mitzi's order is received, there is not enough already made to fill it, but Lee orders his men to bottle it up anyway, in spite of their warnings that it is unfit for use. Lee's wife, Leona, is forced into the game through fear of her brutal husband, and he uses her as a shield in making his deliveries. He orders her to get ready to take a shipment to Mitzi, and in spite of her protests, she is compelled to go. She gets into a fast boat with the shipment and leaves.

A little later, Leona arrives at the Rex apartments with the trunks containing the liquor, being delivered in an express wagon as tho belonging to a new tenant. From his apartment window, Robert watches the delivery of the order to Mitzi, and when Leona leaves, he follows her. She returns to the water front and escapes in her boat, and Robert is unable to overtake her.

After several days of constant watching, Robert is rewarded by finding Leona making another trip in the boat, and this time he overtakes her. She thinks he is an officer, and is arresting her. He tells her that he is not taking her to jail, but is going to show her an example of what their traffic in poisonous liquor is doing. He takes her to his home.

In the meantime, Lee has called to see Mitzi, with whom he is in love and carrying on a clandestine love affair. She upbraids him for not getting a divorce so that he can marry her - Lee tells her that it is impossible as he has no grounds for divorce. Mitzi makes him promise that he will get a divorce if she obtains the evidence.

At the Cartwright home, Leona is introduced to Evelyn, who is still hovering between life and death from the effects of the liquor. Leona is amazed when she learns that their liquor caused her illness. She knows that the traffic is wrong, but had no idea that the liquor had such disastrous effects on its users. She tells Robert and his father that she is willing to do all that she can to help them eliminate the liquor, and tells them of her husband, Robert who has fallen in love with her, is surprised when he finds that she has a husband. Leona tells him that she has been compelled through fear to help her husband in his work. In order to avoid suspicion, Viola proceeds with her delivery to Mitzi.

Arriving at Mitzi's apartment, Lee phones Leona and tells her that officers are watching her boat and she must stay under cover. Mitzi induces her to occupy another vacant apartment in the building, all of this being part of her pre-arranged plan.

In the morning, Lee calls at Mitzi's apartment and with the aid of one of his men, Robert is called from his apartment with the story that there is trouble in one of the other apartments needed. Robert rushes into the apartment and suddenly finds himself locked in, and his friends rush into the apartment and find Robert. Lee accuses them of being in love. Robert is indignant and threatens trouble, but Mitzi quiets him and they leave. Leona together. Robert realizes that the occurrence is a frame-up. He tells her she must come home with him until they can decide what to do.

Back at the Cartwright home, Robert and Leona decide the time for action has come and they plan to raid the headquarters of the ring at the port. The bootlegger, still a prisoner in the house, hears their plan and escapes, going to Lee and informing him that the raid is coming. Lee and Mitzi decide to get all their stuff out at once and make a getaway. Lee sends two of his men to make prisoners of Robert and Leona to prevent any action on their part until they make their getaway.

Lee's men trap Robert and Leona and bring them to the old warehouse where they are held prisoners while Lee and Mitzi arrange for their getaway. They are in the little room where the wireless outfit is kept. Leona can work the machine, and sends a message with her knee on the key, which reaches some harbor police in their boat. They speed at once to the old warehouse. A fight ensues in which Lee is killed, Mitzi and the gang made prisoners and jailed.

At the Cartwright home, Evelyn has recovered sufficiently to make certain that she will be able to attend the wedding of Robert and Leona.

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